

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Kreck for the analysis contained in the Office Action dated January 5, 2007. In particular, applicant thanks the Examiner for noting that allowable subject matter has been shown in Claims 8 through 10.

Amendments to the Specification

The description has been amended to correct some minor grammatical errors noted by applicant.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 7 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Draper (U.S. Patent No. 214,894). Claims 1 and 7 have been canceled, thus rendering the claim rejection moot.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 – 6 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Draper in view of Blendermann (U.S. Patent No. 3,469,698). Claims 2 – 4 have been cancelled. Claim 5 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 6. Blendermann teaches an embodiment where two sleeves 44 and 45 with slots are aligned such that rotation of one varies the effective flow openings through the sleeves. Applicant's amended Claim 5 claims both rotational movement to alter the slot width and axial movement to alter the slot length. Blendermann's teachings are limited to rotational movement, and do not teach axial movement to alter the flow openings. Applicant respectfully submits that the two movements in Claim 5 are not obvious in light of Blendermann, and Draper does not make up the deficiency.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant has amended Claim 8 to include the features of Claim 7, such that Claim 8 is now independent.

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New Claim

Applicant has added new Claim 11, which recites the features of original Claim 4 in combination with the elements of Claim 10. This combination is supported by the specification. Claim 11 should be allowed, both for its dependence on allowable Claim 10 and for the additional subject matter it recites.

In view of the foregoing amendments, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, requests the early issue of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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